

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 261400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8372

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1488

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, KS, KN, CM

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: KOREAN ITEM AT 31UST UNGA, VISIT OF
NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION, AND NORTH KOREAN PROPAGANDA
CAMPAIGN

REF: A. YAOUNDE 1203, B. STATE 80473, C. DAKAR 2339, D. STATE 98185

1. SUMMARY. NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION VISITED YAOUNDE APRIL 10-19.
AND MET WITH PRIME MINISTER. UNABLE OBTAIN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT
AHIDJO WHO OUT OF TOWN DURING PART REPEAT PART OF VISIT. LOCAL
NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR UNABLE OBTAIN GURC PERMISSION HOLD PRESS
CONFERENCE WITHOUT UNACCEPTABLE RESTRICTIVE CONDITION PRECLUDING
ATTACK ON THIRD COUNTRIES. DESPITE RAY OF HOPE THAT MIGHT BE
DEDUCED FROM FOREGOING, FACT REMAINS THAT CAMEROON ADOPTED THOROUGH-
LY PRO-NORTH KOREAN VOTING STANCE AT LAST YEAR'S UNGA. THIS
LAST-MINUTE SWITCH WAS AT PRESIDENT'S ORDERS. IN FOLLOW-
THROUGH TO DECISIONS TAKEN BY CORE GROUP COORDINATING COMMITTEE
IN NEW YORK, SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR HERE CONSULTING US AND
OTHERS RE APPROACHES TO BE MADE TO GURC ON KOREAN QUESTION.
THIS EMBASSY PALNS MAKE DEMARCHE TO FOREIGN MINISTER, TO
REINFORCE SOUTH KOREAN DEMARCHE. AMBASSADOR ALSO HOPES
HAVE OPPORTUNITY INCLUDE KOREA IN TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED
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WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO PRIOR RETURNING WASHINGTON FOR

UPCOMING CONSULTATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. FOUR-MEMBER NORTH KOREAN DELEGATION HEADED BY CHAIRMAN OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE KIM SOK-KI ARRIVED YAOUNDE APRIL 10, RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER BIYA APRIL 15 AND LEFT CAMEROON APRIL 19. ONLY PUBLICITY WAS BRIEF CAMEROON NEWS AGENCY (ACAP) ARTICLE REPORTING DELEGATION'S VISIT AND CALL ON PRIMIN. ARTICLE ALSO INCLUDED APPARENTLY BLAND STATEMENT BY KIM TO PRESS AFTER MEETING WITH PRIMIN THAT DELEGATION WAS IN CAMEROON TO STRENGTHEN FRIENDLY LINKS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES AND THAT NORTH KOREAN GOVT SATISFIED WITH GURC POSITION RE KOREAN REUNIFICATION.

3. ACCORDING SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR YOON, NORTH KOREANS HAD REQUESTED APPOINTMENTS WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO, FONMIN KEUTCHA AND EDUCATION MINISTER. NORTH KOREAN DEL SAW ONLY PRIMIN BIYA AND VICE FONMIN NDAM NJOYA. AHIDJO, ACCOMPANIED BY KEUTCHA AND OTHERS, HAD LEFT YAOUNDE APRIL 10 ON TRIP TO PROVINCES AND RETURNED APRIL 14. YOON NOTED THAT AHIDJO SAW SPECIAL MOROCCAN ENVOY IN DOUALA DURING THIS TRIP, BUT DID NOT RPT NOT SEE THE NORTH KOREANS. YOON ALSO NOTED THAT NORTH KOREAN DEL GAVE USUAL ARRIVAL INTERVIEW APRIL 10 AT YAOUNDE AIRPORT TO JOURNALISTS FROM CAMEROONIAN OFFICIAL AND SEMI-OFFICIAL MEDIA, BUT ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WAS REPORTED IN PRESS OR RADIO ABOUT DEL'S PRESENCE EXCEPT BRIEF ARTICLE DESCRIBED FOREGOING PARAGRAPH.

4. RE NORTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR'S ATTEMPT TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE (REF A), YOON HAS AMPLIFIED TO US THAT REQUEST HAD BEEN SUBMITTED TO GURC IN EARLY MARCH TO HOLD CONFERENCE MARCH 17. GURC HAD SIDETRACKED IT, WITHOUT FLATLY REJECTING, BY STIPULATING TWO CONDITIONS: SUBMIT ADVANCE TEXT OF EVERYTHING TO BE SAID, AND NO ATTACKS AGAINST THIRD COUNTRIES. YOON ALSO TOOK SATISFACTION THAT NORTH KOREANS RECENTLY HAD FORMALLY PROTESTED TO GURC FOREIGN MINISTRY ABOUT SOUTH KOREAN EMBASSY DISSEMINATING MESSAGE WHICH ATTACKED THIRD COUNTRIES. GURC COMMITTEE IN MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND CULTURE MET, REVIEWED SOUTH KOREAN MATERIAL IN QUESTION, AND OKAYED IT. BUT ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO GURC HAD REJECTED NORTH KOREAN ATTEMPT CIRCULATE CERTAIN MATERIAL WHICH WAS CONSIDERED TO BE UNACCEPTABLE PROPAGANDA. CONFIDENTIAL

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5. IN ADDITION TO DISCUSSING FOREGOING DURING CALL AT EMBASSY APRIL 21, SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR YOON TOLD AMBASSADOR AND DCM ABOUT LATE MARCH NEW YORK MEETING OF 10 CORE COUNTRIES (REF D- WHICH EMBASSY RECEIVED ON APRIL 23). WE TOLD HIM WE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED INFO ON MEETING OR SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS BEYOND GENERAL ONES INCLUDING LINE TO BE TAKEN TO ENCOURAGE NEGATIVE DECISION RE PRESS CONFERENCE (REF B). SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR

DAID HE HAD RECEIVED INSTRUCTION TO COORDINATE BY APRIL 20 WITH OTHER CORE GROUP MEMBERS REPRESENTED IN YAOUNDE: UK, CANADA, WEST GERMANY, BELGIAN AND NETHERLANDS. WE SUGGESTED THAT OF THOSE COUNTRIES, WEST GERMANY AND CANADA WERE ESPECIALLY WELL REGARDED IN CAMEROON BECUASE OF SIGNIFICANT AID PROGRAMS AND DEMARCHES FROM THEM TO GURC COULD BE DESIRABLE, THOUGH REALLY UNLIKELY SERIOUSLY INFLUENCE ANY HARD POLITICAL DECISIONS.

6. AMBASSAFOR YOON SIAD HE HAD RECENTLY EXPLAINED SOUTH KOREAN POSITION TO VICE FONMIN NDAM NJOYA WHO TYPICALLY GAVE NO REACTION. YOON SENSED IN RECENT CONVERSATIONS THAT FONMIN DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AND ASIAN AFFAIRS ELLEIH ELLE WAS SOMEWHAT SYMPATHETIC. (COMMENT. THIS IS HIGHLY UNUSUAL, SINCE ELLEIH ELLE HAS LONG BEEN A CONVINCED NORTH KOREAN SUPPORTER. EXPLANATION MAY RESIDE IN RECENT GIFT BY YOON TO ELLEIH ELLE, AT LATTER'S REQUEST, OF CASE OF CHAMPAGNE.) YOON THOUGHT SENGAT KUO- MINISTER AT PRESIDENCY AND AHIDJO'S KEY FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR FOR SEVERAL YEARS - HAD BEEN LEFT OUT OF DELIVERATIONS ON SOUTH KOREAN ISSUE LAST YEAR AND HIS STAR WAS NOW VERY FADED. YOON CONSIDERED IT NOW WORTHWHILE TO TRY TO DEAL WITH DIRECTOR OF PRESIDENT'S CIVIL CABINET, BEB A DON.

7. WE AGREED WITH YOON BOTH RE SENGAT KUO'S LOSS OF INFLUENCE AND BEB A DON'S INPORTANCE, THOUGH WE CONSIDERED IT UNLIKELY BE ABLE ELICIT ANY REACTION WHATSOEVER OUT OF LATTER WHO IS GREAT STONE FACE. (COMMENT. ACCORDING TO SENSITIVE SOURCE, BEB A DON PLAYED ACTIVE ROLE IN GURC'S SWITCH TO PRO-NORTH KOREAN STANCE LAST YEAR.) WE SUGGESTED YOON TRY OBTAIN AUDIENCE WITH PRESIDENT AHIDJO, NOT TO MAKE STRONG DEMARCHE, TO WHICH PRESIDENT LIKELY ONLY LISTEN WITHOUT GIVING MUCH REACTION, BUT TO ENGAGE IN RELAXED CONFIDENTIAL

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EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IN ORDER TRY DISCOVER PRESIDENT'S CURRENT THOUGHTS AND DEPTH OF FEELINGS ON ISSUE. SIMILARLY, WE MENTIONED THAT AMBASSADOR WOULD BE SEEKING PRESIDENTIAL AUDIENCE FOR TOUR D'HORIZON PRIOR TO LEAVING CAMEROON MAY 7 FOR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, AND HOPED INCLUDE KOREAN ISSUED IN DISCUSSIONS.

8. NEW THAT REF D RECEIVED, EMBASSY WILL COORDINATE FURTHER WITH SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR PRIOR TO MAKING DEMARCHE TO FONMIN KEUTCHA AND ATTEMPTING TO DISCUSS KOREAN ISSUE WITH PRESIDENT.

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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R 261400Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8373

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 YAOUNDE 1488

9. COMMENT:

(A) SINCE HIS ARRIVAL IN JULY 1974, SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR YOON HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY OVER OPTIMISTIC, DESPITE STEADY REGRESSION (FROM USG/ROK POINT OF VIEW) IN GURC STANCE ON KOREA. AS IS WELL KNOWN, GURC IS VERY SECRETIVE AND AVOIDS REVEALING INTENTIONS ON VIRTUALLY ALL ISSUES. ALSO, CAMEROONIANS ARE POLITE AND TO SOME EXTENT SAY (OR IMPLY) WITHIN LIMITS WHAT THEY THINK THEIR INTERLOCUTOR WANTS TO HEAR. YOON HAS HAD HIS SHARE OF DISAPPOINTMENTS DURING HIS TOUR IN YAOUNDE AND IN LIGHT OF EXPERIENCE TRYING HARDER THAN EVER TO BE REALISTIC, BUT STILL TENDS TO GROPE FOR SHREDS OF HOPE.

(B) AS WAS STARKLY REEMPHASIZED DURING LAST YEAR'S UNGA STRUGGLE ON KOREAN ISSUE, AHIDJO PERSONALLY CALLS ALL THE SHOTS ON IMPORTANT MATTERS AND OFTEN LEAVES KEY AIDES IN THE DARK UNTIL HE IS READY TO REVEAL HIMSELF AT LAST MINUTE. THUS, WHILE DEMARCHES TO FONMIN MAY BE USEFUL MEANS OF GETTING FACTUAL INFO AND PRESENTATION OF FRIENDLY POSITION ON KOREA INTO GURC HANDS AND HOPEFULLY UP TO AHIDJO, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH PRESIDENT HIMSELF IN RIGHT SETTING IS ONLY WAY TO GAIN ADEQUATE BASIS ON WHICH TO JUDGE WHETHER THERE ANY FLEXIBILITY IN GURC POSITION.

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(C) AT RISK OF EMULATING SOUTH KOREAN COLLEAGUES
TENDENCY TO GRASP AT STRAWS, EMBASSY SEES POSSIBILITY RPT
POSSIBILITY THAT IN POST-ANGOLAN ENVIRONMENT GURC MIGHT BE
INCLINED REASSESS NEED FOR MODERATES TO CONCERT EFFORTS AND
RESIST LEAD OF RADICAL MINORITY WITHIN NONALIGNED
MOVEMENT. THIS COULD LEAD TOWARD BACKING AWAY FROM UNBALANCED
SUPPORT OF NORTH KOREA AND EFFORT GET BACK INTO NEUTRAL STANCE
AND ENCOURAGE CONCILIATION. ON OTHER HAND, GURC LOOKS
UNHAPPILY AT ULTIMATE VICTORY IN ANGOLA OF COMMUNIST-
SUPPORTED RADICALS AS DUE TO INABILITY OF US TO HELP MEET THE
CHALLENGE. ONCE STUNG, GURC MAY HAVE DRAWN LESSON THAT IT
SHOULD NOT RISK BEING CAUGHT OUT ON THAT KIND OF LIMB AGAIN.
"PROGRESSIVE" PRESSURE AT HOME FROM PRO-COMMUNIST CAMEROON
PEOPLES' UNION (UPC) SYMPATHIZERS AND YOUNG "INTELLECTUALS"
HAVE INCREASED, AND UPC IS ENJOYING RENEWED SUPPORT FROM
COMMUNISTS AND RADICALS ABROAD. QUESTION IS WHETHER GURC WILL
CONCLUDE THAT IT IS TIME TO STAND UP ON RANGE OF ISSUES
(INCLUDING KOREA) WITH ITS NATURAL PARTNERS, THE MODERATES,
OR DECIDE IT IS MORE PRUDENT TO FLOAT WITH THE TIDE
AND AVOID FURTHER RUFFLING RADICAL FEATHERS. UNTIL AND UNLESS
FURTHER INFO BECOMES AVAILABLE, BASED ON GENERAL KNOWLEDGE OF
AHIDJO AND GURC'S PAST PERFORMANCE AND TENDENCIES WE WOULD
PREDICT PRUDENCE WILL PREVAIL. BUT THERE REMAINS SOME SLIGHT
CAUSE FOR HOPE. SINCE GURC IS GENERALLY A CAUTIOUS FOLLOWER,
HIGHLY PERTINENT FACTOR COULD BE HOW MUCH EFFORT OTHER
MODERATES MAKE TO RALLY TOGETHER AND WITHSTAND PRESSURE FROM
RADICALS ON THIS AND OTHER ISSUES.
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